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INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF
AMERICAN REPUBLICS

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* Honorary Corresponding Member of the Royal Geographical Society of Great Britain.

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1889-1890.*

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*Arranged in order of precedence, as determined by lot.

- I. THE BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS -
- II. THE NEXT PAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

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THE BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

ITS PAST AND FUTURE

THE International American Congress was held in Washington in 1889 and 1890 for the purpose of "discussing and recommending for adoption to their respective governments some plan of arbitration for the settlement of disagreements and disputes that may hereafter arise between them, and for considering questions relating to the improvement of business intercourse and means of direct communication between said countries, and to encourage such reciprocal commercial relations as will be beneficial to all and secure more extensive markets for the products of each of said countries."

Realizing that one of the essential prerequisites to a closer union between the various countries of the Western hemisphere was the confidence born of friendship resulting from a closer and more general knowledge of the social and economic conditions obtaining in the various portions of that hemisphere, and that improved business intercourse and extended trade relations could only come with a more perfect understanding of the various commercial methods, laws, local usages, trade regulations and requirements, as well as a more extended and thorough knowledge of the products and natural resources of its various divisions, the Conference adopted a resolution creating

**Closer
Union**

an association, under the title of "The International Union of American Republics," for the prompt collection and distribution of commercial information. It further resolved that the Union should be represented by a Bureau, known as "The Commercial Bureau of the American Republics," to be established in the city of Washington, under the supervision of the Secretary of State of the United States, and that it should be charged with the care of all translations and publications, as well as with all correspondence pertaining to the International Union. The expenses of this Commercial Bureau were to be shared by all the Republics composing the Union.

This International Union was to continue in force during a period of ten years from the date of its organization; and, unless twelve months before the expiration of said period a majority of the members of the Union should have given to the Secretary of State of the United States notice of their wish to terminate the Union at the end of its first period, the Union should continue to be maintained for another period of ten years and thereafter, under the same conditions, for successive periods of ten years each. The delegates of eighteen Republics accepted the report. The Bureau was duly established in August, 1890; and, by disseminating among the people of the United States information respecting the resources and business opportunities of the Latin American Republics; and, on the other hand, by making known to the people of South and Central America the many advantages offered to them by the markets of the United States, it sprang almost immediately into public favor.

Though the Conference had defined the purpose of the Bureau to be the publication of information relating to customs tariffs, port regulations, trade statistics, and such like data, and also to act as a medium of communication and correspondence for persons applying for such information, it was at once realized that these limits were too restricted; that information of a more general nature concerning the natural resources, as well as the political, social, and commercial conditions, of the respective countries, was so badly needed that the Bureau

**The Bureau
Established**

could not better serve the purpose for which it was founded than by trying to dispel the existing widespread ignorance. To contribute to this end the Bureau undertook to publish, besides the bulletins, tariffs, etc., which it was bound to bring out, handbooks to the various countries of Central and South America containing general and special information derived from official sources concerning the countries, their history, geography, resources, constitutions and trade, their mining, patent, and land laws, and other information of a useful nature.

**Publi-
cations**

The demand for the publications of the Bureau was very great from the first, far exceeding the supply made possible under its limited resources. This state of affairs very seriously affected its usefulness by preventing many thousands of persons from securing the information they desired, and to which they were entitled. From the establishment of the office until October, 1893, the bulletins were distributed gratuitously, and the editions of 5,000 and less of each of them were necessarily restricted to a few public libraries and commercial organizations, and to individuals directly interested in trade with the countries to which they referred. The applications for bulletins from the United States alone during the first year of the existence of the Bureau numbered 38,000, and the other Republics applied for an almost equal number.

Bulletins

During the second year the general demand for these publications assumed such increased proportions, and so numerous did the requests for them from members of Congress for their constituents become, that at the first session of the Fifty-second Congress special editions of the principal bulletins were ordered printed by that body for distribution by Senators and Representatives. Not the least among the applicants for the Bureau's publications were the public schools of the United States, whose special attention had been directed to the study of Spanish-American affairs by the meeting of the International American Conference; but it was manifestly impossible fairly to distribute the Bureau publications among the public libraries in the United States and those in the sister Republics, as well as

**Special
Editions**

among the inhabitants of all the Republics interested. In 1893 the issue of monthly bulletins was inaugurated; the purpose being to procure and publish promptly, in English, Spanish, Portuguese, or French, information regarding the resources, industries, trade, manufactures, and the general progress of the several Republics, as well as the possibilities of profit in the development of their various industries.

Monthly Bulletins

The "Monthly Bulletin" is now published in an edition of 11,000 copies, of which over 9,000 are sent to the various countries of the Union, which, since the entry into it of Chile, in 1898, includes all the independent states of the Western hemisphere; the balance being distributed to other parts of the world. An extra edition of 5,000 copies has been published since July, 1900, by order of Congress, for distribution in the United States on the orders of Senators and Representatives.

To render the "Bulletin" more serviceable, the Bureau has endeavored to utilize all useful periodical publications, those of Europe as well as those of North and South America. At the present time over 1,700 periodicals, including daily papers, are received; and all important information contained in them is translated, compiled, and published in the "Bulletin" or arranged for reference. The more valuable periodicals are put on the Library's permanent files, while the others are sent to the Library of Congress for its reading room.

Honorary Corres- ponding Members

As a further means of extending the Bureau's sources of information, and of making the "Bulletin" a true reflex of the conditions prevailing in all the countries comprising the International Union, the coöperation has been sought of prominent persons in the various Latin-American Republics, in the capacity of Honorary Corresponding Members of the International Union. These supply the Bureau from time to time with information which helps greatly to extend and complete our knowledge of the economic conditions and resources of the respective countries.

Beside the handbooks, the "Bulletin" and the various minor publications in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French, the

Bureau has issued in English and Spanish a "Commercial Directory of the American Republics, giving lists of manufacturers, merchants, shippers, bankers, etc., engaged in foreign trade, together with the names of officials, maps, commercial statistics, industrial data, and other information concerning the countries of the International Union of American Republics, the American colonies, and Hawaii." In accordance with a recommendation of the International American Conference—that "the Governments of the International Union adopt a common nomenclature, designating in alphabetical order and in equivalent terms, in English, Portuguese, and Spanish, the commodities on which import duties are levied, to be used by all the American nations, for the purpose of levying customs imports, and also to be used in shipping manifests, consular invoices, and other customs documents"—it has also published a commercial nomenclature of over 50,000 terms in the three languages mentioned. This code, the publication of which was only finished in 1897, has been adopted by the United States Treasury Department and by the Republic of Paraguay as a standard for use in their custom houses, and it is expected that other states will also adopt it.

The Bureau has recently undertaken the preparation of new editions of the various handbooks to the Republics, as the material progress throughout America since the date of the publication of the first editions of these works takes away from the value they had when issued. Two have already been published: Venezuela (1899) and Mexico (1900); those on the Argentine Republic and Brazil will shortly be on the press; while one on Chile is rapidly approaching completion. To add to the value of these publications, the Bureau has sought the assistance of various writers in the different Republics, whose authority on certain questions is universally recognized.

The Bureau has also in preparation new maps of some of the American Republics, compiled from the best official sources, on which all data of an economic nature, railways, telegraph lines, mining districts, areas of culture, etc., are indicated. The

Commercial
Directory

Nomen-
clature

Handbooks

Maps

map of Mexico is about to be issued, while maps of the Central American states are under way; and it is proposed to issue on the same large scale (50 miles to the inch), as soon as completed, similar maps of all the South American Republics.

Library

The necessity of forming a good library, especially of official publications, on the American States, was realized by the Conference which founded the Bureau; and it provided that "two copies of all official documents which might pertain to matters having relation to the objects of the Union" should be sent to the Bureau by each country belonging to the Union. With this as a nucleus, the Bureau has built up, by gifts, purchases, or exchange, a library of over 6,000 volumes, besides a valuable collection of maps and photographs. It receives at present the official newspapers of all the Republics, and most of their periodical publications and scientific magazines. A subject-catalogue of the library is being prepared, and in it are noted all works or articles to be found in other libraries of Washington. The same has been done for the collection of maps. By this means the Bureau has become a center of information on all questions relating to the States of the Union; and its library is being more and more utilized by the public.

**Bureau
Management**

As originally organized, the Bureau was placed "under the supervision of the Secretary of State of the United States," but no provision was made for other members of the International Union taking any part in its management. This resulted in the Bureau being looked upon, not only by the public at large, but even by the various Republics and their diplomatic representatives in this country, as a mere annex to the Department of State—a purely United States concern—in which the Republics had practically no interest, though they were pledged to contribute to its support for a stated number of years. As the existence of the Bureau was in danger, Mr. Olney, then Secretary of State, realizing to the full the great rôle which the Bureau might play in bringing about a closer union of the various states of this continent, and believing that it was essential to that end that the Bureau should be made international in effect as well as

in name, and that the other members of the International Union should take an active part in its management, called a meeting of the various diplomatic representatives of the Union on April 1, 1896, to consider with him the subject of the reorganization of the Bureau. A committee was appointed to report upon the best means of carrying out this object; and on June 4, 1896, it submitted its report, which was adopted by all the representatives.

The principal change made by this committee was the placing at the head of the Bureau a Permanent Executive Committee, composed of five members, four to be diplomatic representatives of the nations composing the Union, called to serve in turn for one year, the fifth being always the Secretary of State of the United States, who would be *ex-officio* Chairman. The change worked good, but the experience of the next three years having shown the desirability of further extending the powers of the Executive Committee, it was agreed on March 18, 1899, in another conference of the representative members of the Union in Washington with Mr. Hay, the Secretary of State, that it should have power to appoint the director and other principal employés of the Bureau, to fix their salaries, and to dismiss them at pleasure. It was also empowered to exercise a general supervision over the Bureau, and to perfect its management, "especially in all matters affecting the particular requirements or interest of individual members of the Union, the finances, the business features, and the development of the various branches of the work of the Bureau, as indicated by the International American Conference." The Bureau is now managed under this organization, and is giving, it is believed, satisfaction to all members of the International Union.

The wisdom shown in creating the Bureau is at present fully recognized by all the states of this continent, every one of which now takes an active part in promoting its work. In view of the services it has been able to render in the past, it is believed that its field of usefulness may be still further extended, and that it may be made a yet more potent factor in strengthening

Executive
Committee

Employees

Usefulness
of Bureau

the relations of amity and commerce between the various Republics of the Western hemisphere.

**Inter-
national
Conference**

Though the first International American Conference, that of 1889-90, did not accomplish as much as its projectors had hoped for, it is believed that the cause of this was principally the absence of any permanent agency to carry on after its adjournment the work inaugurated or recommended by it. A second International Conference is to be held in 1901, in the City of Mexico; and, if it is able to accomplish even a portion of the work outlined for it, other conferences may follow, and the Bureau of American Republics may become the agency to prevent its work meeting the same fate as that of the first Conference. The Bureau might have the custody of the archives of the Conferences of the Republics composing the Union, and it might conduct with the various governments all the correspondence relating to the convening of the Conferences, as well as that resulting from their deliberations, with the view of putting their recommendations into effect. It could also be made the intermediary, between the Powers composing the Union, for the transmission of regular and general notifications concerning the objects of the Union; and it could make known to them requests on the part of any one of these countries for modifications of any general agreements into which the Republics may have entered.

**Duties of
Bureau**

The hope is now entertained by many that Conferences of the various states composing the International Union will be held at frequent intervals for the discussion of topics of general interest, and as a powerful agent for strengthening the bonds of friendship between them. In that case the Bureau might be charged with the preparation of the business to be submitted to the Conferences, and could conduct the copying and printing incidental thereto; and the Director of the Bureau might attend the sessions of the Conferences, and take part in the discussions, without voting.

The subject of introducing some uniformity in the methods of keeping trade statistics is of great importance, and various

plans have been suggested to attain this end. It is thought that the desired end might be readily reached if each of the Republics composing the International Union would transmit to the Bureau of the American Republics, at the end of each fiscal year (July 1—June 30), on forms printed and supplied by the Bureau, uniform for all the countries of the Union, a series of statistical data relating to the general and foreign commerce of the year. From these data the Bureau could prepare a general report on the trade of America for each successive year. The Bureau could also be directed to prepare, whenever requested by any one of the members of the Union, special reports upon financial, commercial, or other questions coming within the scope of its labor, and relating to any one of the members of the Union.

Statistics
and Trade
Reports

The above are a few of the ways in which the Bureau might extend its work and further justify the foresight of those who, in founding it, thought they were laying the cornerstone of a permanent union of American Republics, and contributing to an extension of the friendly and commercial relations between them.

WILLIAM WOODVILLE ROCKHILL,

Director.



THE NEXT PAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

The numerous questions of general interest and common benefit to all the republics of America which were considered by the International American Conference, held in Washington in 1889-90, led President McKinley to suggest, in his last annual message to Congress, that it seemed expedient that the various American republics constituting the International Union should be invited, at any early date, to hold another conference. He suggested that it should be in the capital of one of the countries that had not already enjoyed that honor.

The Mexican Government took up the suggestion at once, and it has officially invited the states comprising the Union to attend a conference to convene in the capital city of Mexico, commencing October 22, 1901. The acceptance of the invitation by all the nations has been assured, and the meeting of the plenipotentiaries promises to be one of great moment. But before discussing this phase of the subject it would seem appropriate to take a retrospective glance at the steps which have led to the close and intimate relations now existing between the peoples of this hemisphere.

History accords chiefly to Henry Clay the authorship of the idea of the solidarity of the interests of all America. It was his desire to have that solidarity assume a concrete form in the Congress of Panama, in 1826, which was the first one to be held, although the idea to form close connections between the Spanish colonies in Central and South America was first advanced as early as 1821, at which time these colonies were

Invitations
issued

Congress of
Panama

engaged in the struggle for independence against the mother country—Spain. It was not long after the independence of these colonies had been recognized by the United States that a treaty was also negotiated between Colombia and Chile (1822), contemplating “the construction of a continental system for America.” The President of the United States accepted the invitation to the Congress of Panama, and in issuing the instructions to our delegates Mr. Clay, Secretary of State, said that the assembling of the congress would form a new epoch in human affairs. “The fact itself,” he added further, “whatever may be the issue of the conference of such a congress, can not fail to challenge the attention of the present generation of the civilized world and to command that of posterity.” The United States declined, however, to confirm the nomination of the delegates. The Panama Congress has been considered a failure, the minutes and proctocols having a certain historical value only. While in the main true, this is not unqualifiedly the case. Its adjournment was not *sine die*, but to meet again at Tacubaya, a town near the City of Mexico. “A treaty of perpetual Union” and several supplemental agreements and conventions had been concluded, all of which required the approval of the respective Governments in order to become effective. The plenipotentiaries desired to explain their work personally and defend it in their own countries; and, furthermore, the health conditions in Panama were not such as to make a protracted stay there desirable. Due notice of the change was given to all the Governments represented.

The United States sent delegates to Tacubaya, but the assembly itself never met. The reason why the assembly failed to meet was not because of any abandonment of the fundamental ideas cherished by Bolivar, and set forth in his invitation to all the Spanish-American nations, but because of the failure of the Governments represented therein, especially Mexico, Guatemala, and Peru, to approve the treaty and its appendices framed at Panama. Bolivar himself was opposed to certain features of the treaty, and to the transfer of the

Henry Clay

Simon
Bolivar

assembly to Tacubaya; but he submitted it to the Colombian congress, and, upon approval by that body, ratified it. The plenipotentiaries at Panama fully performed the work with which they had been entrusted, and the failure of several of the Governments to ratify it constitutes the "failure" of the Congress.

The invitation to the Congress of Panama was extended by Bolivar, but only to Colombia, Mexico, Central America, the United Provinces of Buenos Aires, Chile, and Brazil. Colombia and Mexico, however, invited the United States, claiming to have conceived the idea of such a conference at or about the same time that Bolivar planned the Panama Congress for the purpose of uniting Spanish America against Spain. Bolivar convened it for military, as well as for political, purposes. With the military object the United States could have nothing to do; and when the full effects of the Monroe Doctrine were felt the necessity for that object ceased. Unhappily for the United States the administration of that day did not have the support of the country, and a golden opportunity for the establishment of close and cordial relations and the creation of commercial intercourse was lost. The following extract from "Notes upon Foreign Treaties of the United States" throws considerable light upon the situation:

"In looking back upon the Panama Congress from this length of time, it is easy to understand why the earnest and patriotic men who endeavored to crystallize an American system for this continent failed. * * * One of the questions proposed for discussion in the conference was 'The consideration of the means to be adopted for the entire abolition of the African slave trade,' to which proposition the committee of the United States Senate of that day replied: 'The United States have not certainly the right, and ought never to feel the inclination, to dictate to others who may differ with them upon the subject: nor do the committee see the expediency of insulting other States, with whom we are maintaining relations of perfect amity, by ascending the moral chair and proclaiming from

**Purposes of
Conference**

Slavery

thence mere abstract principles, of the rectitude of which each nation enjoys the perfect right of deciding for itself.'"

Cuba and Puerto Rico

The same committee also alluded to the possibility that the condition of the islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico, still the possessions of Spain, and still slave-holding, might be made the subject of discussion and of contemplated action by the Panama Congress. They said:

"If ever the United States permit themselves to be associated with these nations in any general Congress assembled for the discussion of common plans, in any way affecting European interests, they will, by such act, not only deprive themselves of the ability they now possess of rendering useful assistance to the other American States, but also produce other effects prejudicial to their interests."

The failure of the Congress of Panama neither dampened the ardor nor crushed the spirit of Americanism, which it was the endeavor of its promoters to instill into the hearts of the inhabitants of this hemisphere. It was Mexico who next moved in the matter; and on the date of March 13, 1831, she invited the American Republics to meet in a new congress, which, however, did not eventuate. Five years later, however, in 1836 Mexico repeated her efforts, offering the following programme:

Settlement of Disputes

"The union and close alliance of the new States for the purpose of defense against foreign invasion, the acceptance of friendly mediation of the neutral States for the settlement of all disagreements and disputes of whatever nature which might happen to arise between the sister Republics, and the framing and promulgation of a code of public law regulating their mutual relations."

Meeting at Lima

Further invitations were extended by her in 1839 and 1840. It was not until 1847, however, that the republics of Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, New Granada, and Peru decided to carry out the idea; and it was at the first meeting of this congress, at Lima, that the decision to invite the United States was reached. But the scope of the congress—being intended solely to unite the Spanish-speaking republics closer and more intimately with

each other—could have hardly admitted of our presence there. Aside from the fact that the meeting at Lima was to deal entirely with Spanish-American interests, the United States were at the time at war with their Mexican neighbors.

The "continental treaty of 1856" was made at Santiago, Chile, by the republics of Peru, Chile, and Ecuador; and the Government of Peru was authorized to communicate with the other Governments and ask them to adhere to its stipulations. The Spanish-speaking nations of the American continent were again invited by Peru to meet in conference at Lima in 1864. This conference was opened on the 14th of November of that year. The United States were not invited. Here again it was Latin-American consolidation that was proposed. In 1880 the Government of Colombia addressed a circular note to the Governments of the other Spanish-American republics based upon Article 3 of the projected treaty between Colombia and Chile, having for its object a meeting of plenipotentiaries of all the Spanish-American states at Panama in September, 1881.

**Latin
American
Consoli-
dation**

This meeting was for the purpose of executing with one another an international treaty or convention similar to the one executed between Colombia and Chile, and which "thus not only established the principles of international representation for the determination of any disputes which may arise between any of the co-signatory states as a part of the public law of this continent, but also provided for the practical obligation of these principles by constituting the President of the United States the permanent arbitrator under the proposed treaty." The Minister of the United States at Bogota, in adverting to this subject, said:

"The correspondence does not disclose the fact that a plenipotentiary from the United States is invited to join in the execution of the proposed treaty or convention. This is probably owing to the reason that the position assigned to the Government of the United States by the proposed treaty is to maintain and exercise a friendly and judicial impartiality in the differences which may arise between the powers of Spanish-America."

**Position of
United
States**

**Position of
Mr. Blaine**

The proposed congress of 1881 was not held, war having broken out in South America at about the time fixed for the meeting. On November 29, 1881, Mr. Blaine, then Secretary of State, addressed a circular letter to the United States representatives in the states of Central and South America soliciting their participation in a general Congress to be held in the city of Washington in 1882. Mr. Blaine maintained that a growing disposition had made itself manifest by certain states of Central and South America to refer decisions affecting grave questions of international relations and boundaries to arbitration rather than to the sword, and that it had been on several occasions the source of profound satisfaction to the Government of the United States to see that this country was in a large measure looked to by all the American powers as their friend and mediator. Mr. Blaine stated that it was the wish of the President that the attention of the congress should be strictly confined to one great object, and that its sole aim was to be to seek a way permanently to avert the horrors of cruel and bloody contact between countries. It was made very plain that the United States did not assume the position of counsellor, and that she would not, in any case, attempt, through means of Congress, to settle questions dividing any of the countries of America; nor was it to be the purpose of the United States to prejudge any issues.

**Invitations
withdrawn**

International complications in South America here again interfered, and the congress of 1882 was not held, the invitations being withdrawn by Mr. Freylinghuysen; not before, however, numerous acceptances had been received, all couched in the most friendly terms. A potent factor in securing these acceptances was the circumstance that representation was to be accorded to all the nations of America. None was to be excluded, either because of the peculiarity of its form of government, or on account of its superiority in the possession of the elements of power. Moreover, all were to assume the same obligations upon a footing of perfect equality. This fact also, in the opinion of many, gave to the project originated by Mr.

Blaine a practical importance which was lacking in earlier conferences. Again, the circumstance that the United States made no specifications and proposed no means for preventing war, but left it open for the congress itself to determine, gave such confidence that the proposition was received practically with enthusiasm. It was believed that even the calling of such a congress had not been without benefit, since the attention of the people of the United States, as well as of the republics of South America, had been directed to the importance of having a definite policy governing their international relations which should be satisfactory to all.

**Definite
Policy**

The South American Conference, held in Montevideo in 1888-89, can hardly be considered as coming within the sphere of purely political conferences. It was, moreover, simply a convention of Spanish American jurists.

Montevideo

The several attempts since 1880 to obtain legislative action in the United States providing for the holding of an International American Conference, while exceedingly interesting, need receive but a simple reference here. The bill authorizing such a conference was finally passed by both Houses of Congress on May 10, 1888, and was approved on the 24th of the same month. Upon this latter point some historians have unfortunately erred in stating it was announced on May 28 that the bill had become a law without the President's approval. An examination of the original archives shows that President Cleveland did sign the act, thus giving it the full force of his approval, and that he did not, as implied by the above statement, hold back the instrument until the constitutional ten days elapsed, and thus allow it to become law without his sanction. Attention is called to this inaccuracy, which was the more unfortunate as the inference to be deducted therefrom was, naturally, that President Cleveland was not in sympathy with the idea of holding the Conference. Moreover, the fact that his distinguished opponent for presidential honors, Mr. Blaine, had been the author and promoter of the scheme, during a previous and politically antagonistic administration, would lend additional

**United
States
Congress
Acts**

weight to such inference. The official act of President Cleveland in signing the bill entirely disposes of this.

**Solidarity
of Interests**

Nothing did more to add lustre to Mr. Blaine's name and fame than his aggressive Americanism. In that he was certainly above party prejudice, and no less so was Mr. Cleveland. Both of our great political parties, when in power, showed a practical sympathy for the "solidarity of the interests of all America." The invitations to the conference were extended by Mr. Bayard to the several Governments of Mexico, Central and South America, Haiti, and Santo Domingo. The act provided that the President of the United States should set forth that the Congress was called to consider :

**Programme
of the
Conference**

(1) Measures that shall tend to preserve and promote the prosperity of the several American states; (2) measures toward the formation of an American customs union, under which the trade of the American nations with one another shall, so far as possible and profitable, be promoted; (3) the establishment of regular and frequent communication between the ports of the several American states and the ports of one another; (4) the establishment of a uniform system of customs regulations in each of the independent American states to govern the mode of importation and exportation of merchandise and port dues and charges, a uniform method of determining the classification and valuation of such merchandise in the ports of each country, and a uniform system of invoices, and the subject of the sanitation of ships and quarantine; (5) the adoption of a uniform system of weights and measures, and laws to protect the patent rights, copyrights, and trademarks of citizens of either country in the other, and for the extradition of criminals; (6) the adoption of a common silver coin, to be issued by each Government, the same to be legal tender in all commercial transactions between the citizens of all of the American states; (7) an agreement upon and recommendation for adoption to their respective Governments of a definite plan of arbitration of all questions, disputes, and differences, that may now or hereafter exist between them, to the end that all difficulties and disputes

between such nations may be peaceably settled and wars prevented; (8) and to consider such other subjects relating to the welfare of the several states represented as may be presented by any of said states which are hereby invited to participate in said conference.

Wednesday, the second day of October, 1889, was named as the day for the convening of the conference. Later the King of the Hawaiian Islands was invited to send delegates. All the countries accepted the invitation. The congress convened on the date appointed. Mr. Blaine opened the deliberations in a speech of welcome, which will always remain a model discourse, fitting the subject and occasion. It breathed the spirit of Americanism, and reached its climax when he said that it was "a conference, in fine, which will seek nothing that is not, in the general sense of all the delegates, timely, wise, and useful."

Conference
Convenes
at Wash-
ington

The delegates went enthusiastically to work upon an extensive programme, embracing every question which could possibly, either directly or indirectly, bear upon our hemispherical conditions and relations. Eighteen committees were appointed to deal with the various subjects. Mr. Blaine was chosen President; ex-Senator Henderson, President *pro tempore*; Mr. Zegarra, of Peru, First Vice-President, and Mr. Romero, of Mexico, Second Vice-President. The sessions lasted intermittently until April 19, 1890.

Officers

International conferences and commissions that frame treaties revolutionize the world. This cannot, however, be said of such as are diplomatic rather than legislative. Those of the former category, to which the international American Conference of 1890 belonged, nevertheless exert powerful influences which are not always shown in the actual and practical results obtained. Unquestionably, harmony and understanding between the nations of America was secured, and certain things were accomplished which the decade following the meeting of the conference has demonstrated to be of considerably more than sentimental value to all the nations concerned. In the

Harmony
Secured

first place, an International Union of American Republics was formed, with an organ in the shape of a bureau at Washington. This has existed for ten years, and its life has been prolonged for a further period of ten years.

The American Monetary Conference was held in Washington in 1891. A survey for an intercontinental railway was made, and there has been compiled a code of commercial nomenclature in the English, Spanish, and Portuguese languages, which is accepted as a standard. Upon other subjects the debate assumed a wide range; and while at times interests clashed, the patriotic intent of the several delegates was never for a moment questioned. Research and investigation were stimulated to a degree never before equalled in a similar undertaking. The forces that were put to work, and the labor enjoined to prepare statistical data for argumentative and other purposes, materially increased the general knowledge upon many subjects of deep concern to statesmanship and commerce—subjects which had to some measure been either neglected or misunderstood for the lack of a proper forum for their full and free discussion. The great question of arbitration formed a theme of eloquent debate, and an agreement was reached, which was recommended for adoption by the several Governments, of a definite plan of arbitration of all questions, disputes, and differences that might exist, or hereafter exist, between them; and there was further recommended a system of arbitration for the settlement of all difficulties between the republics of America and the nations of Europe. The various committees all made reports showing careful investigation and thought, and in such cases where they were not unanimous the dissenting opinions went on record in the form of a minority report. In a word, the conference was a far step toward the integration of America along the lines wished for by Bolivar and Clay, and carried further toward perfection by the genius of Blaine and his associates.

Work of the
Conference

Integration
of America

It is not unfair to assume that the commercial gathering in Philadelphia in 1897, known as the Pan-American Commercial

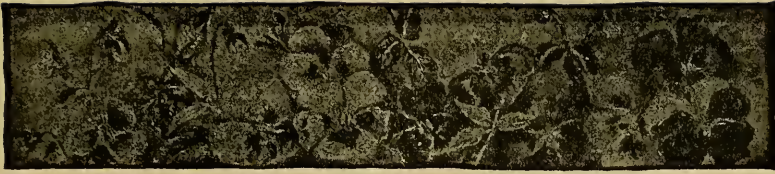
Congress, was a direct result of its political predecessor in 1890. Sixteen countries were represented there either from chambers of commerce or other commercial bodies; while several republics, notably Mexico and Brazil, sent representatives appointed by their chief executives. President McKinley made an address at the opening of that congress. Again, the Pan-American Exposition, to be held in Buffalo in the summer of 1901, is but another link in the chain of events tending to add to the good feeling, mutual regard, and benefit.

Results

After all that has gone before, the congress in the city of Mexico will convene under the most pleasant auspices. Its programme has been so mapped out as to include many of the subjects treated at the previous conference as well as such new ones as may be submitted to it. But, above all, it will be an international occasion of the first importance dedicated to inter-continental friendship, peace and prosperity. As Mr. Mariscal, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, has aptly said, in reference to it: "Not forgetting that civilization came to us from Europe, and that the great interests of humanity are one, we must confess that in America there are special interests and closer bonds between her inhabitants, with fewer international complications, to secure the welfare of her peoples."

It seems peculiarly appropriate that the threshold of the twentieth century should witness renewed activity in conserving these special interests so forcibly pointed out by the distinguished Mexican statesman.

WILLIAMS CARLTON FOX,
Chief Clerk.



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